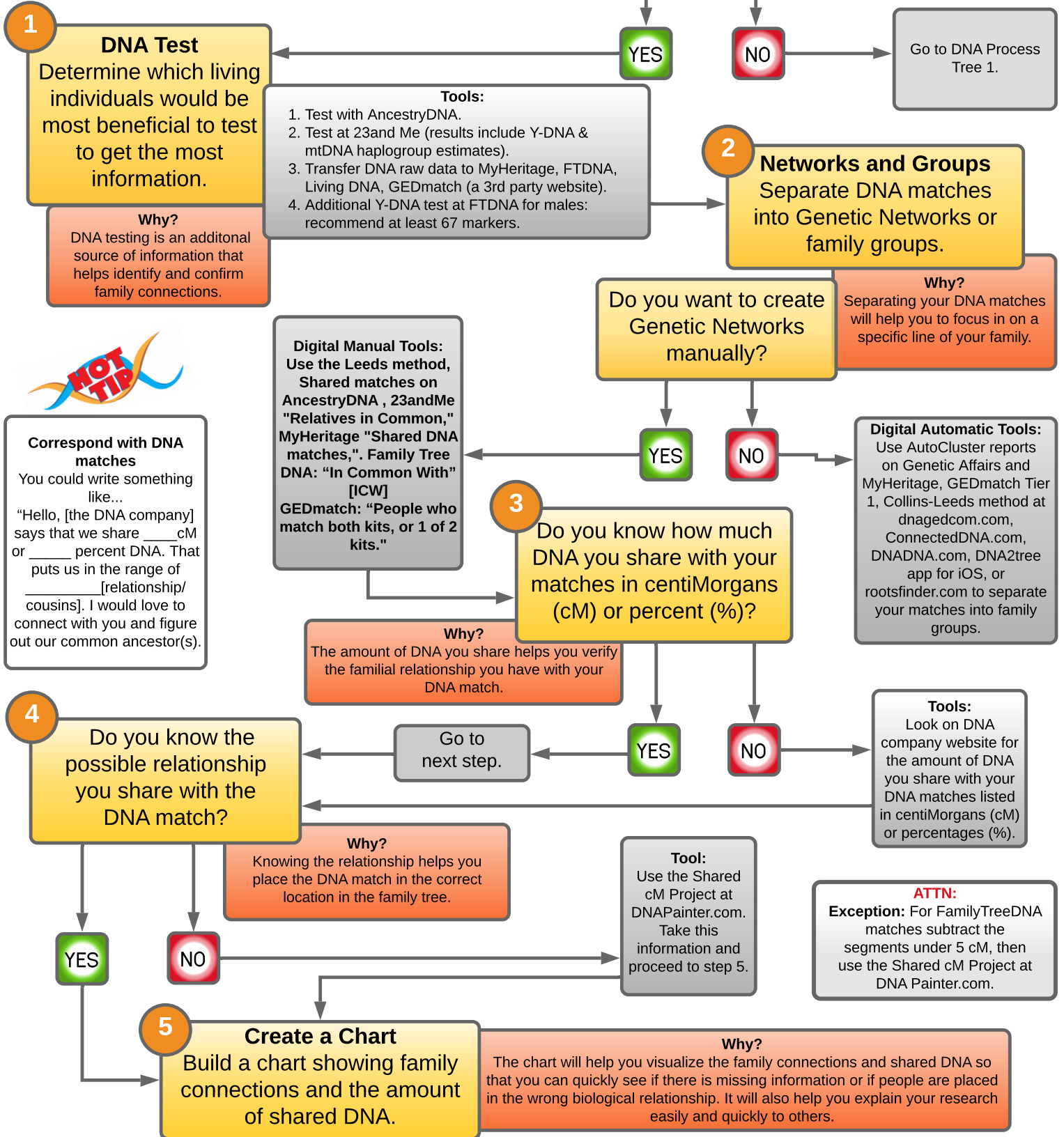


Research Objective

Do you want to identify an unknown parent or solve a misattributed parentage?



Correspond with DNA matches
You could write something like...
"Hello, [the DNA company] says that we share ___ cM or ___ percent DNA. That puts us in the range of ___ [relationship/cousins]. I would love to connect with you and figure out our common ancestor(s)."

Digital Manual Tools:
Use the Leeds method, Shared matches on AncestryDNA, 23andMe "Relatives in Common," MyHeritage "Shared DNA matches," Family Tree DNA: "In Common With" [ICW] GEDmatch: "People who match both kits, or 1 of 2 kits."

Digital Automatic Tools:
Use AutoCluster reports on Genetic Affairs and MyHeritage, GEDmatch Tier 1, Collins-Leeds method at dnagedcom.com, ConnectedDNA.com, DNADNA.com, DNA2tree app for iOS, or rootsfinder.com to separate your matches into family groups.

ATTN:
Exception: For FamilyTreeDNA matches subtract the segments under 5 cM, then use the Shared cM Project at DNA Painter.com.



Try This:

Ask DNA matches on the family line of focus to share their DNA match list with you. You could also ask DNA matches to upload their DNA to other DNA websites such as MyHeritage, FamilyTreeDNA, Living DNA, GEDmatch.com (a 3rd party tool).

Place DNA matches in a pedigree chart the correct relationship position using amount of shared DNA, estimated and the names of family members in Step 2.
(See an example on the reverse side.)

Do you want to create a chart manually?

YES

NO

Electronic Tools:
Lucidchart, Ancestry Tree, 23andMe, "Your Family Tree" Beta, or Personal Genealogy Software.
Try GeneticAffairs.com "AutoTree" and 23andMe "Your Family Tree" for hints.

Manual Tools:
Draw a chart using paper & pencil or write names on sticky notes & arrange them in a pedigree chart layout on the wall.

6

Evaluate
the family trees of your DNA matches.

Is there a family tree attached to the DNA match?

ATTN:
Use genealogical records and documents to establish and verify relationships.

Why?
The family trees of DNA matches will help you identify common ancestors.

YES

NO

Build quick trees for your DNA matches back in time to one or two generations beyond the ancestor you are trying to verify.

Tools:
Tree building tools: Lucidchart.com, Ancestry.com, personal genealogy software. Also use automatic tree building tools at www.geneticaffairs.com, 23andMe, DNA2Tree, etc. Use information found in obituaries, vital and census records, etc. and online trees found at FamilySearch.org, Ancestry.com, MyHeritage.com, Findmypast.com, Geneanet.com.

Tools:
Family trees attached to DNA matches at AncestryDNA, MyHeritage, & FTDNA, the Leeds Method (www.danaleeds.com) Use groups identified in Step 2.

ATTN:
Use genealogical records and documents to establish and verify relationships.

7

Pedigree Triangulation
Look for common surnames as you compare family trees that are attached to DNA matches. Explore the pedigrees and localities to find the most recent common ancestor (MRCA) shared by multiple DNA matches. To focus on one family line, use the people in the family groups identified in Step 2.

Do you know which ancestors you and your DNA match have in common?

Why?
If you can determine which ancestor you and your DNA match both share, you can verify that you are genetically related to that ancestor.

YES

NO

Skip to step 10

8

Build the trees of the common ancestors forward in time
looking for where different families meet in a marriage. Next, find the child of that marriage who was in the right place at the right time to be the missing parent or grandparent.

Is additional information needed to confirm relationships and verify genetic connections to family members and ancestors?

Why?
You need to identify possible candidates for biological parent(s). They may be deceased or may not have tested their DNA. You are looking for an intersection in time and place where the biological parents could have met and conceived a child.

Tools:
Family trees attached to DNA matches at AncestryDNA, MyHeritage & FTDNA, the Leeds Method (www.danaleeds.com) Use groups identified in Step 2.

YES

NO

Skip to Step 10.



To zero-in on biological grandparent candidates who are one of multiple children in a large family, search for DNA matches that descend from that adult child **and** their spouse. If there are no DNA matches that connect with the spouse, then you are looking at the wrong child. Move on to the next adult child **and** spouse. Look for matches that share that spouse's parents or grandparents.

9
Segment Triangulation
 Identify DNA segments shared by you and two of your matches on the same chromosome. Use chromosome browsers to find segment information. To focus on one family line, use the people in the family groups identified in Step 2.

The ancestor shared by all 3 is the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA).

Tools:
 Chromosome Browsers are found at MyHeritage, 23andMe, FTDNA, GEDmatch, and DNA Painter. Look for triangulation tools at Gedmatch Tier 1, Autosomal DNA Segment Analyzer at DNAGedcom. Try www.geneticaffairs.com AutoSegment tool.

Why?
 Looking at and analyzing actual DNA results gives information about DNA segments. You can use this information to identify the DNA segments that you inherited from specific ancestors. This information will help you identify the MRCAs between you and your DNA matches. This method can also help you trace your family tree back even more generations - perhaps even beyond the ancestors you know about now.

10
Identify records
 that list the possible biological parent(s). Look for connections in time and place where ancestors could meet and connect.

Did you find the record(s) proving the connection to the biological parent?

Tools:
 Newspaper articles, obituaries, yearbooks, census records, vital records, etc.

Why?
 Records will establish the identity of key individuals. The biological parents would have needed to match up at a time and place to conceive a child. Records can help establish a location and time for individuals.

Do you want to contact newly discovered living family members?

YES

STOP!
 See DNAAdoption.com for suggestions on contacting biological family members.

ATTN:
 Use genealogical records and documents to establish and verify relationships.

Enjoy the results of your hard work!

NO

YES

NO

Either wait for new DNA matches or contact hypothesized living family members to target test.

When new test results are available, go back to step 2 and repeat the process.

11
Contact newly discovered living family members and ask them to DNA test to confirm (or disprove) the relationship. Prepare yourself for a variety of reactions in yourself and the newly identified family members.

Why?
 If you share enough DNA with a newly tested family member to verify the hypothesized ancestor or biological parent, you can confirm the relationship.

Did the DNA test confirm the relationship?

Tools:
 Ask the newly identified relative to test at the same DNA company where your DNA results are located, preferably 23andMe or upload results to GEDmatch.com so you can see half and fully identical regions of DNA which helps distinguish between half siblings and full siblings. Full siblings share fully identical regions, whereas half siblings only share half identical regions - because they only share DNA from one parent.

Enjoy the results of your hard work!

YES

NO

Go back to step 8 and repeat the subsequent steps.

Congratulations on reaching your objective!